



The
**City of
Pittsfield**
MASSACHUSETTS

Mayor James M. Ruberto

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF THE CITY OF PITTSFIELD

Questions

- 1) After reviewing the preliminary reports located at www.mass.gov/dhcfp/costtrends please provide commentary on any data or finding that differs from your organization's experience and the potential reasons therefore.

ANSWER: The City of Pittsfield discontinued its self-insured health insurance program effective July 1, 2009 and enrolled in the General Insurance Commission ("GIC"). Pittsfield budgeted \$18,550,000 for Fiscal Year and has expended \$9,103,035 to the GIC to date. Given the City's very limited experience with the GIC, it is unable at this time to identify or comment on differences with regard to the data or findings in the preliminary reports located at www.mass.gov/dhcfp/costtrends.

With respect to the aggregate trends, please comment:

- 2) What specific actions has your organization taken already to address these trends in the short term or long term? What current factors limit the ability of your organization to execute these strategies effectively?

ANSWER: As stated above, the City of Pittsfield has enrolled in the GIC in hopes of controlling health care cost in both the short and long term.

- 3) What types of systemic changes would be most helpful in reducing cost trends without sacrificing quality and consumer access? What other systemic or policy changes do you think would encourage or help health care providers to operate more efficiently? Could enhanced competition or government intervention or a combination of both mitigate the cost trends, and describe the nature of the changes you would recommend.

ANSWER: As stated above, the City is unable to comment on cost trends at this time. That being said, the City of Pittsfield is hopeful that as more municipalities enroll in the GIC, the cost of the program will decrease.

With respect to future years' Cost Trends Reports:

- 4) Please identify any additional cost drivers that you believe should be examined in subsequent years and explain your reasoning.

ANSWER: The City of Pittsfield believes that regional price variations, if any, should be examined in subsequent years. Pittsfield and Berkshire County are the most remote region from Boston, the political and medical hub of the Commonwealth. The City would like to ensure that our region is not suffering a disproportionate share of the cost growth.

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- 5) Please provide any additional comments or observations you believe will help to inform our hearing and our final recommendations.

ANSWER:

None at this time.

The undersigned deposes and says that he the Mayor of the City of Pittsfield and that he signs this testimony for and on behalf of the City of Pittsfield and is authorized to do so; that the matters stated in the foregoing answers are not all within his personal knowledge and that such facts as are stated in the testimony which are not within his personal knowledge have been assembled by authorized agents, employees and counsel of the City and he is informed and believes that the facts stated in said answers are true and so states under the pains and penalties of perjury.

CITY OF PITTSFIELD



BY: James M. Ruberto, Mayor